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Message Text

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15
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 /063 W
---------- 048778
R 081932Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8534

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EC, PE
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENT CONFIRMED

1. THE GOE HAS CONFIRMED PUBLICLY THAT PERUVIAN PRESIDENT GENERAL FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS ACCEPTED A GOE INVITATION AND WILL PAY A SHORT VISIT TO QUITO ON DEC. 13, WHEN HE

WILL MEET FOR TWO HOURS WITH THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE THE MEETING WILL COVER "VARIOUS SUBJECTS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INTEREST, PERU-ECUADOR BORDER AREA INTEGRATION, AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

2. THE GUAYAQUIL BRANCH OF THE VELASQUISTA PARTY (THE POLITICAL PARTY OF FORMER ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT JOSE MARIA VELASCO IBARRA) IMMEDIATELY PROTESTED THE VISIT. DRAWING ON THE FACT THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ IS HEAD OF THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES, THE VELASQUISTAS REJECTED THE VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "AGGRESSOR" MILITARY POWER THAT DEFEATED ECUADOR IN 1941 AND "LOPPED OFF" HALF OF ECUADOR'S TERRITORY. THE VELASQUISTAS CALLED ON ALL SECTORS OF ECUADOREAN SOCIETY TO TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST THE VISIT AND THEREFORE "SAFEGUARD THE NATIONAL DIGNITY." THE VELASQUISTAS ALSO CALLED ON THE GOE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR ITS INVITATION TO MORALES BERMUDEZ.
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3. COMMENT: THE VISIT, WHICH IS HAILED BY THE PRESS AS THE
FIRST BY A PERUVIAN PRESIDENT IN HISTORY, HAPPENS AT A DELI-
CATE MOMENT IN PERU-ECUADOREAN RELATIONS. ECUADOR'S MILITARY
LEADERSHIP IS UPSET AND APPREHENSIVE ABOUT RECENT PERUVIAN
ARMS PURCHASES AND THOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE
SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED OFFICIALLY BEFORE, THE SUPREME
COUNCIL MAY TOUCH ON IT DURING THE MEETING WITH MORALES.
ALTHOUGH THE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC APPEARS TO VIEW PERUVIAN ARMS
PURCHASES WITH LESS ALARM, THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE REMAINS
A CHRONIC SOURCE OF DEMAGOGIC EXPLOITATION AS WITNESSED
BY THE VELASQUISTA OUTBURST. THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY
THAT STREET DEMONSTRATIONS WILL OCCUR GIVEN
THE PRESENT HARDNOSED GOE ATTITUDE TOWARD PUBLIC DISORDER.
HOWEVER, THE SUPREME COUNCIL, IN VIEW OF THE DEPTH OF FEEL-
INGS ON THIS ISSUE, WILL BE SHARPLY CRITICIZED IF THERE IS
NOT SOME INDICATION TO THE PUBLIC THAT THEY RAISED THE
BORDER QUESTIONS DURING THE INTERVIEW.
BLOOMFIELD

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